

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-14 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.¹

By way of summary, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by US Patent App. Publ'n No. 2001/0035854 to Rosenberg et al. (hereinafter "Rosenberg").

ABSTRACT

Applicants have deleted the Abstract and submit herewith a new Abstract. No new matter has been added.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicants and Applicants' representative wish to thank Examiner Davis for the courtesy of the telephonic interview granted on September 21, 2011. During the interview, amendments clarifying the claims over the applied reference were discussed. Claim amendments and comments similar to those presented during the interview are included herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In light of the outstanding rejection, independent Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to clarify the claimed inventions and to thereby more clearly patentably define over the applied reference.

¹ The amendments to independent Claims 1, 5, and 9 find support at least in Figures 14A-14D and in their accompanying text in the specification. Further, Claims 1-4 have been amended to no longer invoke the protection of 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the invocation of 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a haptic function-provided input device including, in part,

a computation unit configured to compute a vibration pattern . . . ; and

a vibration unit that vibrates [an] input detection plane based on the vibration pattern . . . , wherein the computation unit is configured to compute the vibration pattern further based on a shift in an excitation timing between two actuators of the vibration unit.

Rosenberg does not disclose or suggest those features.

Rosenberg concerns a touchpad that can output a force that depends on a position of a user's finger on an area of the touchpad.² In particular, Rosenberg is descriptive of a "vibration being dependent upon [a] current velocity of the user's finger (or other object) on the touchpad. . . ."³ According to Rosenberg, "as the finger is moved faster, the frequency and magnitude of the vibration is increased."⁴

Rosenberg does not disclose or suggest all of the features of amended Claim 1. For example, Rosenberg merely describes that the vibration is dependent upon a current velocity of a user's finger. Rosenberg does not disclose or suggest that "the computation unit is configured to compute the vibration pattern further based on a shift in an excitation timing between two actuators of the vibration unit," as recited in amended Claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 and all associated dependent claims patentably distinguish over Rosenberg.

For at least analogous reasons, independent Claims 5 and 9 and all associated dependent claims also distinguish over Rosenberg.

² Rosenberg, paras. [0053], [0055].

³ Id., para. [0055].

⁴ Id.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new Claims 13-14 to set forth the invention of Claim 1 in a varying scope. New Claim 13 finds support at least in Figures 14A-14D and in their accompanying text in the specification. New Claim 14 finds support at least in Figures 7-8 and in their accompanying text in the specification. Thus, no new matter has been added. Dependent Claims 13-14 are allowable by virtue of their dependencies and for the more detailed features presented by the new claims.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted the present application is patentably distinguished over the applied reference. The application is therefore in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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